

## Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00  
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 /051 W  
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INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
AMEMBASSY QUITO  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DOHA 0042

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINR, OPEC, ENRG, QA  
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC NOTES: ALI JAIDAH, NEW OPEC SECRETARY GENERAL

1. WE HOLD BIO SKETCH ON ALI MUHAMAD JAIDAH, NEW OPEC SECRETARY  
GENERAL, DATED EC 1972. SKETCH REMAINS VALID, BUT WE SUGGEST  
THAT IT BE REWRITTEN INCORPORATING COMMENTS BELOW, AND REDIS-  
TRIBUTED TO ALL ADDRESSES.

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2. JAIDAH HAS EXHIBITED CONSIDERABLE AND PERHAPS NATURAL  
APPREHENSION ABOUT HIS ABILITY TO HANDLE HIS NEW RESPONSIBILITIES.  
HOWEVER, HE IS KNOWLEDGEABLE AND EXPERIENCED IN PETROLEUM AND  
OPEC AFFAIRS. IN FACT, HE IS SINGLE QATARI OFFICIAL IN THE OIL  
HIERARCHY OF THE GOQ WHO HAS A SUBSTANTIVE GRASP OF THE ISSUES.  
HE HEADED THE GOQ'S NEGOTIATING TEAM WHICH WORKED OUT THE 100  
PERCENT TAKEOVER AGREEMENT WITH QPC IN SEPTEMBER 1976, AND COMPANY

OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON HIS COMPETENCE AND UNDERSTANDING OF BOTH SIDES OF THE PROBLEM. HE WILL BE MISSED HERE EVEN THOUGH IT IS KNOWN THAT BOTH THE AMIR AND MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PETROLEUM PERSONALLY DISLIKE JAIDAH, WHO HAS BEEN QUITE OPEN IN SHOWING THAT HE BELIEVES COMPETENCE RATHER THAN SHAYKHLINESS IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR HOLDING PLYCY POSITIONS.

3. ON OIL POLICY IN GENERAL, JAIDAH IS A "NATIONALIST" WHO SEES THE PRODUCERS AS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE MAKING UP FOR YEARS OF EXPLOITATION BY FOREIGN COMPANIES AND IN THE SECOND AS RUNNING WAY BEHIND INFLATION SPIRAL RE COST OF IMPORTED GOODS. AT THE SAME TIME HE BELIEVES IN SOLVING THE PRODUCER/CONSUMER PROBLEM IN THE FRAMEWORK OF DIALOGUE AND HAS CRITICIZED U.S. POLICY AS CONFRONTATIVE RATHER THAN COOPERATIVE.

4. JAIDAH IS A COMPLEX PERSON. HE COMBINES NATIONALIST ATTITUDES AND ARAB PRIDE WITH A STRONG INTEREST IN WESTERN-STYLE INTELLECTUAL LIFE AND SOCIAL CUSTOMS. HE OFTEN GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF BEING ARROGANT AND CYNICAL. HE IS INTELLIGENT AND KNOWS HIS BUSINESS, AND CAN DISCUSS SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES COMPETENTLY.

5. JAIDAH TOOK A "SABBATICAL" AT OXFORD DURING 1975, PARTIALLY BECAUSE OF HIS INTELLECTUAL BENT AND PARTIALLY BECAUSE HIS RELATIONS AT THE TIME WITH THE AMIR AND MINISTER OF PETROLEUM WERE MORE SOUR THAN USUAL.

6. IT IS SAID THAT JAIDAH AND HIS FAMILY HAVE PROFITED HANDSOMELY FROM HIS POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF PETROLEUM AFFAIRS. HIS BROTHER REPRESENTS SOUTHEAST DRILLING COMPANY, THE U.S. FIRM WHICH DOES CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST OF THE GOQ'S CONTRACT DRILLING, AND SEVERAL OTHER OIL SUPPLY AND EQUIPMENT FIRMS. IT IS ALSO SAID THAT HE GOT HIS SHARE FROM A NUMBER OF SMALL CONCESSION AGREEMENTS AND OIL PURCHASE DEALS NEGOTIATED DURING HIS TENURE.

7. JAIDAH SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL, DRINKS AND SMOKES. HE IS RESPONSIVE TO OFFICIAL ATTENTION, AND BECAUSE OF RANK CONSCIOUSNESS, THE HIGHER THE LEVEL THE BETTER.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PINR, ENRG, QA, OPEC, (JAIDAH, ALI MOHAMMAD)  
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